

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, February 24, 2014, 4:30pm, at the Parks office. Present at said meeting were Pat Flannelly, Karen Springer, John MacDonald, Jeff Love and Andy Gutwein. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Lee Booth, Chris Foley, Bess Witcosky, Dan Dunten and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Absent were Park Board member, Aimee Jacobsen and Council President, Ann Hunt.

Mayor Dennis swore in new Park Board member, Jeff Love.

Pat convened the Board at 4:38pm.

The first item of the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the January 27, 2014 meeting. Karen motioned to approve the minutes. John seconded the motion. Karen noted a correction was necessary due to John's absence from the January meeting.

Mayor Dennis discussed, briefly, the necessity of having to vacate City Hall due to two significant exposures to moisture that have created a mold problem, and that through an outside consultant, the building has been made uninhabitable. The building itself is still structurally sound, but the mold, particularly in the basement, has caused the air quality to be extremely compromised. It progressively improves as you as you move to the upper levels, but if you have someone prone to allergies or asthma, they are going to feel the effects of the damage. The mold issues are not solely due to the flooding, but also in part due to the structure of the building. The mold problem is suspected to have been escalating over the years due to the type of building structure. A further inspection and evaluation of the building will take place over the next few months. The Development and Engineering offices will be moving to Morton Community Center, using Room 106 and the lounge area temporarily. In a few months, the Purdue Speech, Language & Hearing Department will be vacating Morton, and their rooms will become available for use. The City offices will relocate to that area at the north end of Morton. The remaining offices have been moved to the Police department and Fire Station # 1. The Clerk's office was the first office moved, with the intent of keeping City operations flowing properly. We know that as we move forward there will be some created problems that we will want to be aware of, so we can try to work through them. The plan is to keep everyone informed and to keep all meetings going. The long-term plan will be to relocate City Hall to Morton. We are aware that Morton is in need of some repairs, and with limited funds, the repairs would be made, and the City offices would be moved to one location again. Discussion followed.

**Superintendent** – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report had been distributed and copies of the 2013 summary report were in the Board folders.

**Assistant Superintendent** – Pennie reported on the following:

- Softball information has been sent to the 32 coed teams and 12 men's teams that participated last year. Information has also been posted on our website. League play will start the week of May 5.
- The Global Fest committee has been meeting. We are discussing the possibility of moving the festivities to Chauncey Street so the parking lot may be used for parking. We are still sorting out logistics. Our next meeting is March 14.

- I'm on the WALLA Task Force committee. We have been meeting to find a location where WALLA could meet if the City decides to move City Hall to Morton.
- I have requested \$30,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to bring the restrooms in Cumberland Park and the Lilly Nature Center compliant with the ADA. The first CDBG Hearing is set for March 6.
- The Fire Department delivered a new AED machine for the Parks Office. The new machine was funded through a grant received from Firehouse Subs.

**Parks – Lee reported on the following:**

- Inspections
- Continue to prepare equipment for summer months
- Still working indoors at the shop and other areas organizing, cleaning, etc.
- Lots of snow removal on trail walks and parking lots.

**Recreation – Chris reported on the following:**

- Riverside Skating Center update: The Center's 2014 annual Dare to Bear was held Friday, Feb. 7 from 7-8:30pm. The event started slow, but ended with 59 skaters in their swim suits enjoying the frigid weather. Domino's provided free pizza for skaters
- The Second & Third grade basketball program was completed Saturday, Feb. 15. There were forty-five second graders and twenty-five third graders in the basketball program. Cumberland Principal, Kim Bowers, and her staff, were very helpful accommodating this four-month program. Greg Tudor has led the program for six years. This was Greg's final year. A search is on for a new coach for the grade school basketball program.

**Morton Center – Bess reported on the following:**

- Summer course proposals are in and the process of editing and scheduling has begun.
- Engineering and part of Development are moving in. Pre-Council and Council are moving in. The organizations that are affected have been extremely understanding and flexible. I am most concerned about Bridge and they have been troopers.
- When we get Room 106 back, it will have Wi-Fi and more updated electric. We will also get some additional cleaning because of the additional departments that are being housed here.

Discussion followed Bess' report regarding the City temporarily moving two of their departments to Morton.

**Stewardship – Dan reported on the following:**

- Prescribed Burn
  - We started burning sections of the Celery Bog Nature Area four years ago and plan to do the same this year, hopefully next month. We like to go on a 3-4 year cycle so that we rotate around the Nature Area.
  - It is a long process for the approval. I submitted an application and Burn Plan to IDEM in December, then after some follow-up communications and sending more information, we received our permit last week. The Burn Notice then needs to appear in the local newspaper (last Wednesday) and then we can legally burn following a 15-day response period.

-We plan to burn two locations at the Celery Bog. One is ¼ acre and the other is 3.3 acres along the west side of the woods. There is also a 2.3 acre section we plan to burn along the Northwest Greenway Trail near the Tippecanoe Memorial Gardens Cemetery at the corner of Kalberer and Morehouse roads.

- **Celery Bog App**

- We are developing an App for iPhones and Androids for visitors at the Celery Bog Nature Area to utilize. It will allow them to use a menu to help identify birds, wild flowers, tree, mammals and other things they would see at the Nature Area.

- This has involved going through approximately 60,000 photos that Sam Postlethwait has taken over the years. Right now, we are concentrating on the wildflowers and have ended up with about 270 different flowers growing at the Nature Area.

I will keep you updated on the progress, but our intent is to have it approved by people who manage the App Store and ready for use in May.

## **Old Business**

### **Farmers Market Updates**

Suzy Gerard and Robin Pickett discussed the proposed changes to the application for the Farmers Market this year. Discussion followed. Pat noted he would accept a motion for approval of the amended former contract, now application, for the Farmers Market, with Jeff moving the motion, to approve the application for the Farmers Market as presented. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **Spring Soccer Schedule**

Pennie presented dates for the GLRSA spring schedule, noting the season begins March 12 and runs through June 1. The fall season will begin July 28 and run through Oct 31.

## **New Business**

### **Mind BOGgling Event Request**

Dan requested permission to allow the Emergency Munchie Truck (EMT) to come in and sell food from 11am-1pm during the event. Discussion followed. Pat entertained a motion to approve the EMT to sell food at the Mind BOGgling Event pending an agreement on parking/fees details for use of the space. Karen motioned to approve the request as presented, with details for use of the space to follow. John seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **West Lafayette School Board – Karen reported the following:**

- The Annual Joint School Boards meeting will be held tomorrow night at 6:30pm at the Hiatt Center.

- Waivers have been granted for three missed days of school. We need to make up two, so we are using the make-up days that were built into the school calendar – we had class on Monday, February 17 and will also have class on Friday, April 18. Hopefully, we will not miss any more days.

**Wabash River**

- Pat noted he did not attend, but received the revised schedule. Joe noted there is just the executive board this month, with a full board meeting next month.

**Other**

Pennie noted the Board meeting for March is scheduled for March 17, which falls during Purdue and West Lafayette Community School Corporation's spring break. Due to this, the Board has decided to move the meeting date to March 24.

**Pay Claims**

John motioned for claims to be paid. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Adjourn**

Jeff motioned to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary